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Weekly Reader[®]

Senior Edition



Black people celebrate the results of a whites-only election that will mean that blacks may soon share power with whites in a new government.

In South Africa

Whites Vote 'Yes' To New Freedom for Blacks

**"Today we have closed the book on apartheid. . . .
Today is the birthday of the real South African nation."**

—F. W. de Klerk, president of South Africa

See story pages 2–3.



Recycled Paper

In South Africa Whites Vote 'Yes' To New Freedom for Blacks

• "For the first time in my life, I feel part of this country," says a black woman on a radio talk show.

• "I am so happy that the whites said yes, because for the first time, they're including me; they're not just thinking of themselves," says a black woman who works cleaning offices.

• "De Klerk performed a miracle," says a white man who has been campaigning for black rights. "It's the most wonderful day of my life."

All these people are reacting to the results of an important vote that took place recently in South Africa. In a whites-only election, 3 million whites voted to go ahead with changes that will mean sharing power with the nation's 30 million blacks.

President F. W. de Klerk called for this important vote. For the three years he has been president, De Klerk has gradually been breaking apart a system called *apartheid* (uh-PAHR-tight), which gave the nation's white people complete power over the black majority. During the 40 years of apartheid,

- only whites could vote;
- whites controlled the army and the police force;
- black people could not own property anywhere except in certain regions called homelands, where many were forced to live (see map on page 8);
- black children and white children went to separate schools;
- black people could not use the same hospitals, the same buses, or the same public parks and rest rooms as white people could.
- black people could not form their own political parties. Blacks were often jailed or even killed for fighting against the government.



Weekly Reader map

De Klerk Chips Away at Apartheid

Under De Klerk's presidency, many of these old apartheid rules have been changed. Thousands of black prisoners have been freed. Black people can now own land anywhere in South Africa. Black children can go to white schools—if 72 percent of the parents in the schools vote in favor of the change. And black people are now free to use the same public hospitals, transportation, parks, and rest rooms that whites use.

But black people still can't vote in national elections in South Africa. And more than half the black people in South Africa live in poverty in black homelands.

DeKlerk has been negotiating for months with black leaders to put together a new government that would include black people. But before he could finalize any agreement, he wanted white voters to let him know whether they would support change.

In the days before the March 17 vote, outbreaks of violence in black

housing areas made some people fearful that whites would vote no. But 85 percent of eligible white voters showed up at the polls to vote yes to change and no to apartheid.

Why Did Whites Vote Yes?

Whites voted yes for many reasons, including the following:

- Some said they were afraid that a no vote would mean that other



President F. W. de Klerk celebrates the white vote for change in South Africa.

AP/Wide World



A young black man looks on as a white woman goes to the polls in a whites-only election that will help decide the fate of black people in South Africa.

—AP/Wide World

nations would not do business with South Africa. Before De Klerk's reforms began, many nations refused to trade with South Africa.

- Some said they voted yes so that sports teams from South Africa would not be banned from international competition.

- Some said they voted yes because *they want music groups* to once again tour South Africa.

- Many said they voted yes, as one voter put it, "because it was the right thing to do."

By June, some experts say, some blacks might be appointed to be part of a temporary government council. Experts expect that within 18 months, black people will vote in national elections for the first time.

Before that day comes, De Klerk will face some tough talks with black leaders over what role blacks and whites will play in the new government.

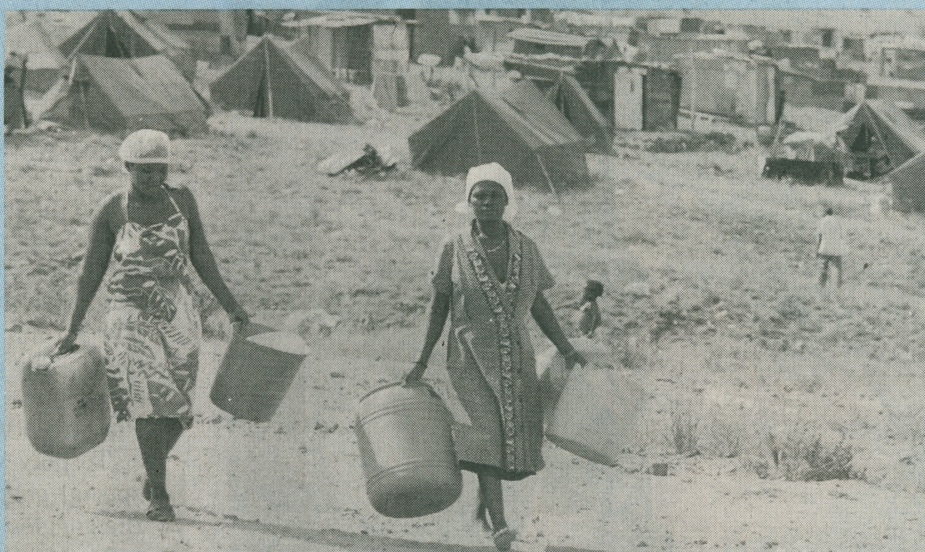
But De Klerk and Nelson Mandela, leader of the major black political party in South Africa, say they favor a new constitution that

will protect the rights of blacks as well as whites and allow both blacks and whites to be represented in a new legislature.

If these changes happen, De Klerk may be proved to be right that the yes vote on March 17 "closed the book on apartheid."

THINK & DISCUSS

Why might some whites be fearful of black rule in South Africa? In what ways do whites still hold power?



—AP/Wide World

Women living in a poor rural area of South Africa set out to get their daily water supply. Under white rule, millions of black people don't have running water or electricity and live in tents, shacks, or mud huts.



Chris Allis plays racquetball using a virtual-reality game. His goggles allow him to see the ball and racket in 3-D.



Virtual Reality

The boy puts on big goggles and a special glove. He grips a racket in one hand. He's ready to play virtual reality racquetball.

On two tiny TV screens in his goggles, the boy sees a ball and a racket. The ball zooms straight at him. He swings the racket in his hand, and smash! The racket inside his goggles hits the ball, which zooms away.

This player has stepped into the world of *virtual reality*. It's a realistic world in some ways, but it exists only inside a computer. Virtual reality is also called *cyberspace* and *artificial reality*.

Virtual reality is something like computer games. But it goes further. In computer games, objects on the computer screen look flat. In virtual reality, objects on the screen look three-dimensional, as if they had depth. The player steps into the game.

Playing a Virtual-Reality Game

To play virtual-reality racquetball, a player needs special goggles and a glove with sensors. Wires link the goggles and glove to a computer.

Inside the goggles are two screens, one for each eye, that display the ball and racket from slightly different angles. The player's eyes combine the two images to see in 3-D, as people normally see objects.



Janaea Commodore wears a wired glove and goggles to explore the world of virtual reality. In her goggles, she sees the image behind her in three dimensions.

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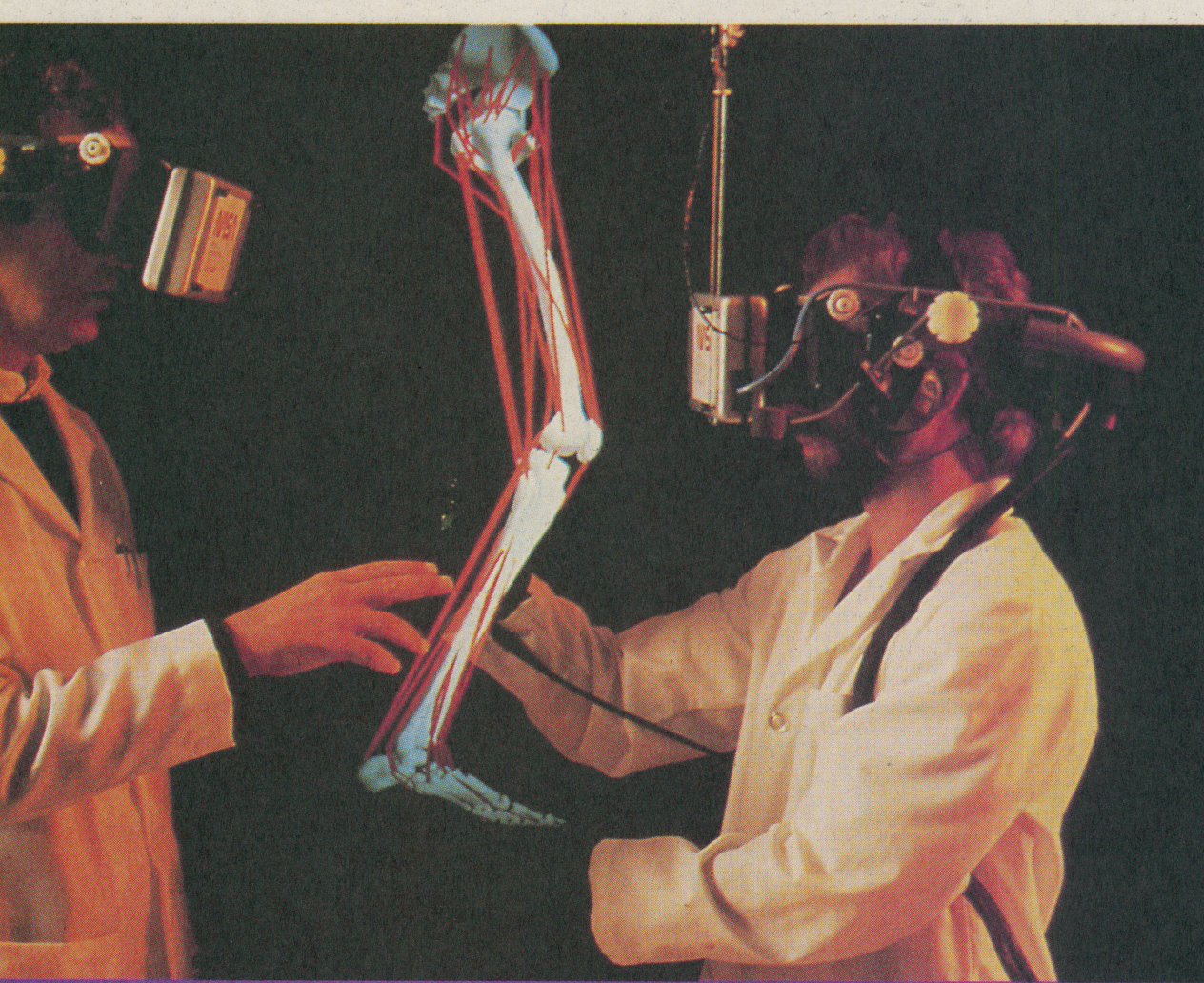
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Doctors can look at a "virtual leg" from all angles and move parts of it around.



—All photos © 1990 Peter Menze

ity Opens New Worlds

and situations in the real world.

When the player moves his gloved hand, sensors in the glove instantly send information about the motion to the computer. If the player coordinates his hand motion with what he sees onscreen, the racket on the screen will hit the ball.

A virtual-reality game can be played alone or with another player. And the players don't even have to be in the same place. If their computers are linked, two people who are far apart can join in the same game.

Beyond Fun and Games

Virtual-reality software for computers opens new worlds of fun. It also opens new worlds in fields such as medicine and education. These are a few serious ways in which virtual reality is already used.

- A computer program creates a "virtual body." Doctors put on virtual-reality goggles and surgical gloves to practice new or difficult operations before performing them on patients.
- Teenage drivers use a virtual-reality game to practice reacting to emergencies in a car.
- Kids studying science interact with atoms to learn more about them.
- Architects "walk" through each room of a house that hasn't been built. Errors in the house plan can be fixed.

The Future of Virtual Reality

No one can predict exactly what virtual reality may help us do in the future. Some scientists say that one day a form of virtual reality may enable people to direct robots to

- clean up after a nuclear disaster without risking human life;
- repair spaceships in outer space from Earth;
- perform surgery in one country when the surgeon is in another country.

Virtual reality will be useful in many ways, according to some scientists. But other observers say virtual reality could have some bad effects.

Virtual reality will help people avoid real problems by escaping into a world of make-believe, says one critic of the new technology.

But a scientist who created one of the first virtual-reality computer programs defends the new technology. He points out that people already use virtual reality to solve real problems in fields such as medicine.

THINK & DISCUSS

In what other ways might virtual reality be used? How might it be misused?



Thomas Moody holds his three-month-old son, who is recovering from injuries caused when he was swept up in a tornado.

Baby Survives Twister Ride

Thomas Moody thought his three-month-old son had been killed after a tornado destroyed their mobile home in Zero, Miss.

But then Moody heard a baby screaming. He found his son, Tanner, hanging upside down 8 feet from the ground in a pine tree in the yard. The tornado had ripped Tanner from his crib inside the mobile home, but the baby's nightshirt had caught on a branch and saved his life.

Tanner was taken to a nearby hospital. He had a broken rib, bruises, and torn tendons, but he

wasn't seriously hurt, doctors said. Doctors thought Tanner would be fine in a few weeks.

The tornado killed three people, injured 47, and damaged or destroyed 100 homes.

Tanner wasn't the only baby who survived a wild twister ride that day. Another tornado hit in a different part of Mississippi. An eight-month-old girl was sleeping when the tornado wrecked her home. Her parents found her in the yard under a mattress, pressed against what once had been a ceiling. There wasn't a scratch on her.

Can Fan Plan Blast Smog Out of Mexico City?

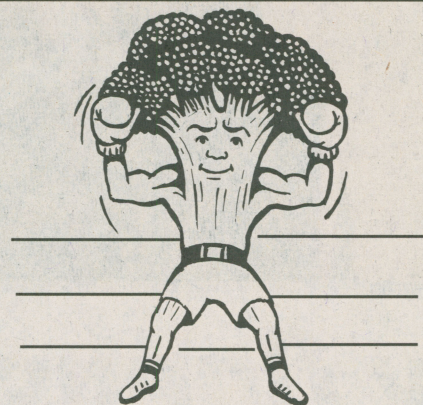
A gray-brown blanket of smog smothered Mexico City recently. It was the city's worst pollution crisis ever. Residents suffered from burning throats, headaches, and watery eyes. City officials closed schools. They banned vehicles from city streets and ordered factories to shut down for part of the day.

Smog emergencies like this one are common in Mexico City. Surrounded by high mountains, the city is located in a natural basin. When a cool front moves in, smog can be trapped in this basin. Now

some officials have a plan to blow away the smog with giant fans.

Officials propose installing 100 25-foot-high fans around the edge of the city. Heating units near each fan would heat the nearby air so it would rise more readily. Then the fans would shoot the warmed air—and the pollution—high into the sky. Winds would then blow the pollution over the mountains.

Before the fan plan becomes a reality, tests will have to be done to be sure that the plan won't affect the city's climate.



—Vilma Ortiz

Is Broccoli A Cancer Fighter?

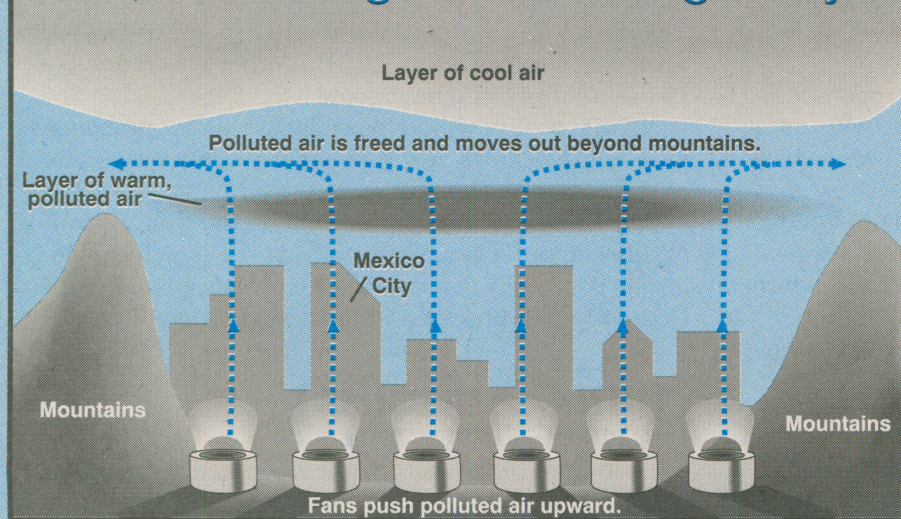
Even if you don't like broccoli, you might want to start eating the green veggie. Broccoli contains a substance that could be the most powerful cancer fighter ever found, scientists say.

The cancer-fighting substance in broccoli is a chemical named sulforaphane. New research shows that sulforaphane causes a certain chemical reaction in cells that helps to prevent cancer.

Scientists say the chemical might be the main reason that people who eat a lot of broccoli and its relatives, such as cauliflower, are less likely to get cancer than people who don't eat those foods.

Scientists hope someday to be able to put sulforaphane in tablet or liquid form. Then people who are at high risk for cancer can take high doses of the substance to keep from developing the disease.

How Fans Might Blow Smog Away



before



after



Good-bye, Huxtables!

Eight years ago, Theo Huxtable was 13. He liked sports and hated to study. This year, Theo graduated from college as his proud family—and several million viewers—watched the last episode of “The Cosby Show.”

Theo, played by Malcolm Jamal-Warner, is a member of America’s most popular TV family. Since the show’s premiere in 1984, the Huxtables have been watched by more people than any other sitcom family in TV history. The show is ending because Bill Cosby, the comedian who plays Dr. Cliff Huxtable, wants time to do other things.

Since the show began in 1984, Dr. Huxtable has gained a few pounds and some gray hairs. But his sense of humor is the same. Claire Huxtable, played by Phylicia Rashad, is a lawyer who is funny and smart.

But the kids have changed. Sondra (Sabrina LeBeauf) married Elvin, and they had twins. Denise left the country after Lisa Bonet, the actress who played her, left the show. Vanessa (Tempestt Bledsoe) changed from a preteen to a young woman. And baby sister Rudy (Keshia Knight-Pulliam) went from little girl to teenager.

Pigs Take to the Alleys

Some pigs have gone hog-wild over bowling.

How did they get into the sport? Well, pigs get bored easily when they’re penned up. And when they’re bored, they can be nasty. No one knows who first thought of giving a pig a bowling ball to push around on the concrete floor of a large indoor pigpen. But bowling made the pig happy, and word of that got around.

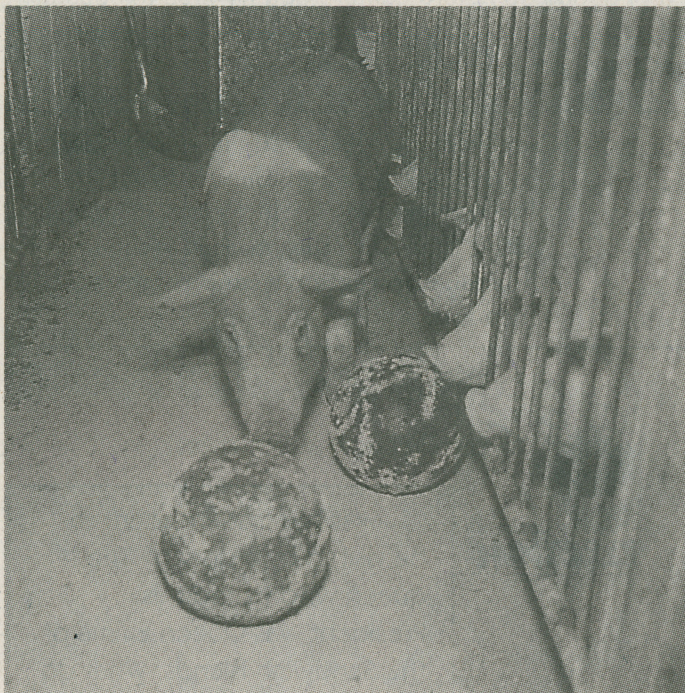
Pig bowling began to catch on.

“It’s just like putting toys in with a child in a playpen. . . . It keeps them occupied. It’s something new and fun,” says Wayne Houin, whose family has given pigs bowling balls—without any pins—for ten years.

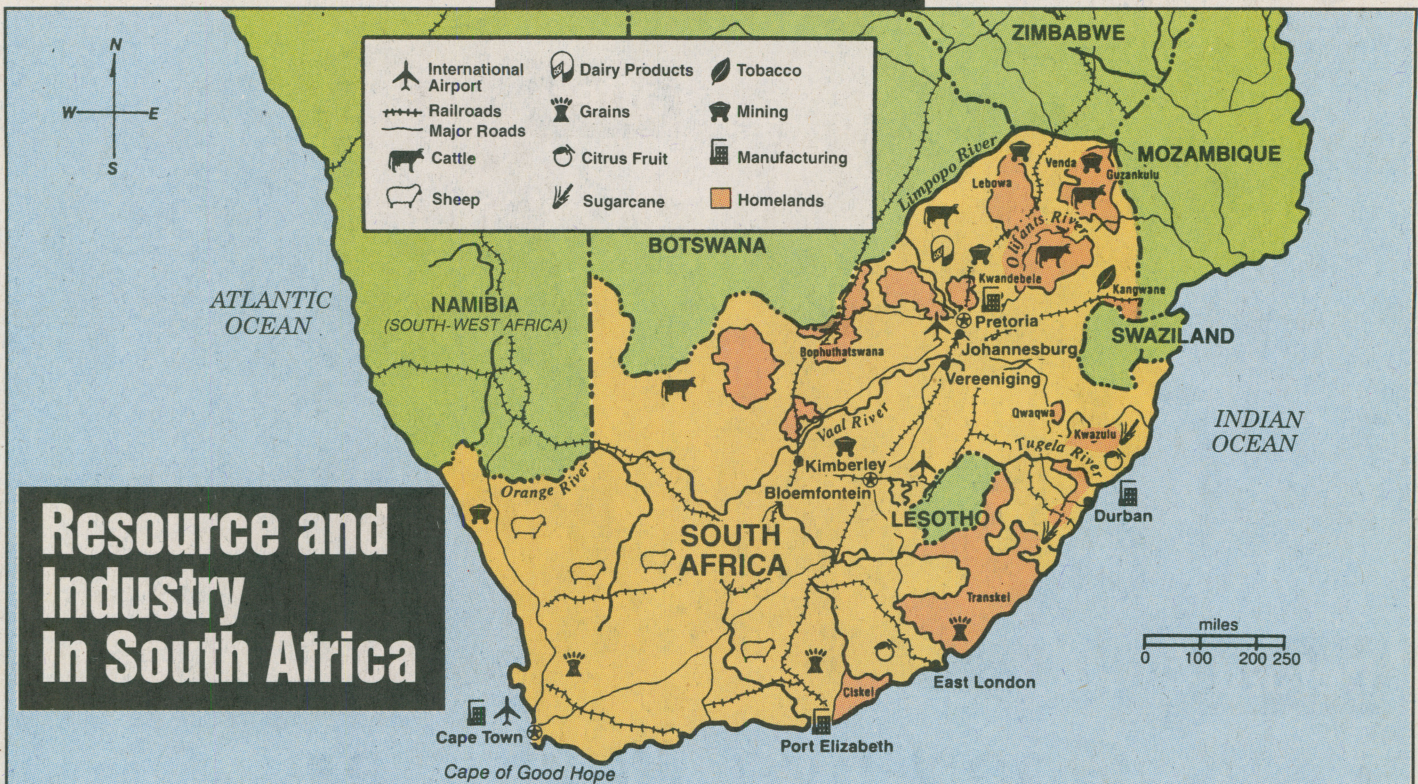
Some farmers give their pigs bowling pins too. And some pigs are pretty good at knocking them over.

Farmers say young pigs weighing from 40 to 100 pounds enjoy bowling the most. Smaller pigs aren’t strong enough to push bowling balls, and full-grown pigs are moved into larger outdoor pens, where they have more space to roam.

What do you think will be next? Hog hockey?



A pig pushes a bowling ball down the alley in its pen as other pigs watch.



Resource and Industry In South Africa

Map Reading

Underline the word, words, or number that best completes each statement.

1. A nation that borders only South Africa is (*Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho*).
2. Cattle are raised mainly in the (*northern, southwestern, southeastern*) part of South Africa.
3. South Africa has (*two, three, four*) capitals.
4. The Orange River forms part of the border between South Africa and (*Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe*).
5. A train trip from Pretoria to Bloemfontein is about (*150, 250, 350*) miles.

6. The city nearest sugarcane growing areas is (*Pretoria, Durban, East London*).
7. Sheep are raised mainly in the (*southwestern, northeastern, southeastern*) part of South Africa.
8. Transkei is a (*city, nation, homeland*).
9. An international airport is located at (*Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Durban*).

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS BONUS

Which form of transportation is probably used to carry goods from northeastern South Africa to coastal cities? What probably happens to most goods that are transported to coastal cities?

News Comprehension

Mark each statement T if it is true, F if it is false, or N if there is not enough information to decide.

1. White people have always ruled South Africa.
2. Only white people are allowed to vote in national elections in South Africa.
3. Far more white people than black people live in South Africa.
4. Under apartheid, many black people in South Africa had to live in separate homelands.
5. If black people are allowed to vote in national elections in South Africa, poverty will end.
6. Goggles are used in virtual-reality games to protect players from radiation.
7. Doctors have used virtual-reality to practice operations before doing them.

8. A plan to rid Mexico City of smog would use large fans placed around the city.
9. The new plan to rid Mexico city of smog is better than any other method yet found.
10. Broccoli may contain a cancer-fighting chemical.



Which President . . .

. . . was the first President to be visited by a queen? The queen who visited this President was Queen Emma of the Sandwich Islands. What do we call these islands today?